

**Disability & Aging:  
Seeking Solutions to Improve Health, Productivity and Community Living**

**A Mini-Conference of the 2005 White House Conference on Aging  
July 21 & 22, 2005**

**Crystal City Marriott at Reagan National Airport  
1999 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Arlington, Virginia 22202**

**Final Program**

**Thursday, July 21, 2005**

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

**Continental Breakfast and Registration**

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

**Welcome, Charge to Participants**

- Introduction: Lex Frieden, Senior V.P., The Institute for Rehabilitation Research (TIRR), Houston, TX
- Dorcas R. Hardy, Chair, Policy Committee, White House Conference on Aging

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**Policy Perspectives on Healthy Aging for Adults with Disabilities**

- Moderator and Presenter: Margaret Giannini, M.D., Director, Office on Disability, HHS
- Mark B. McClellan, M.D., Ph.D., Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, HHS
- Fritz Streckewald, Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Program Policy, Office of Disability and Income Security Programs, Social Security Administration
- Respondent: June Isaacson Kailes, Disability Policy Consultant
- Respondent: Bonnie Cramer, Member, Board of Directors, AARP

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

**Break**

10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**Keynote Presentations: Future Political Agenda for Disability and Aging**

- Introduction: Andrew Imparato, President and Chief Executive Officer, American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD)
- Gene Sperling, Former White House National Economic Advisor and Director of the National Economic Council
- The Honorable Sam Brownback, U.S. Senator (R-KS)

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Private Sector Perspectives on Promoting Social Engagement and Productive Aging**

- Introduction: Karen Ignagni, CEO and President, American Health Insurance Plans
- Ronald S. Leopold, M.D., National Medical Director and Vice President, MetLife Disability
- Kenneth Mitchell, Ph.D., Vice President, Return to Work Programs, UnumProvident

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**Luncheon Speaker:**

- Introduction: Margaret Giannini, M.D., Director, Office on Disability, HHS
- Claude A. Allen, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**The New Freedom Initiative in Action – Next Steps in Promoting Community Living**

- Moderator and Presenter: John H. Hager, Assistant Secretary, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), ED
- W. Roy Grizzard, Jr., Ed.D., Assistant Secretary Office of Disability Employment Policy, DOL
- The Honorable Gordon H. Mansfield, Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs
- Respondent: John A. Lancaster, Executive Director, National Council on Independent Living
- Respondent: Ginny Thornburgh, Director of Religion and Disability Programs, National Organization on Disability

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Seeking Solutions through Research and Development – Promising Directions in Health, Productivity and Community Living**

- Moderator and Presenter: Gilbert Devey, Program Director, National Science Foundation
- Healthy Long-Term Living: Stephen Bartels, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry, Dartmouth- Medical School
- Productivity and Social Engagement: Debra Lerner, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, Tufts University
- Economic Security: Dave Stapleton, Ph.D., Director, Cornell University Center for Policy Research
- Technology, Universal Design and Environments: Greg Vanderheiden, Ph.D., Director, Trace Center, University of Wisconsin
- Positive Messaging: Bill Thomas, M.D., Founder of Eden Alternatives

4:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Break

4:45 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

**Concurrent Policy Development Sessions – Organizational Meeting**

- **Session 1: Social Engagement & Productivity – Location: Salon B**
  - Coordinators: Ken Mitchell, Ph.D. and Alexandra (Sandy) Cook, UnumProvident
  - Facilitator: Susan Daniels, Ph.D., Private Consultant
  - Recorder: Carol Davis, UnumProvident Corporation
- **Session 2: Healthy Long-Term Living – Location: Salon A**
  - Coordinator: Eileen Elias, Office on Disability/HHS
  - Facilitator: JoAnn Thierry, Ph.D., Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  - Recorder: Teddi Fine, Office on Disability/HHS
- **Session3: Economic Security Planning & Choice – Location: Salon C**
  - Coordinators: Jennifer Sheehy Keller, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Rehabilitation Services Administration (OSERS), ED and Andy Imparato, President & CEO AAPD
  - Facilitator: Susanne Bruyere, Ph.D., Cornell University Employment & Disability Institute
  - Recorder: Anne Sommers, Intern, American Association of People with Disabilities

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- **Session 4: Technology, Universal Design & Environments – Location: Crystal View**
  - Coordinator: Margaret L. Campbell, Ph.D., National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), ED
  - Facilitator: Celia Merzbacher, Ph.D., Office of Science Technology and Policy, The White House
  - Recorder: Robert Jaeger, Ph.D., National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), ED
- **Session 5: Positive Messaging – Location: Boardroom**
  - Coordinator: Susan Parker, Office on Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), DOL
  - Facilitator: Brewster Thackeray, AARP
  - Recorder: Shelia Fesko, Ph.D., Program Manager, Institute for Community Inclusion University of Massachusetts

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

**Reception**

**Friday, July 22, 2005**

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

**Continental Breakfast**

9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

**Welcome, Recap of First Day's Proceedings & Charge to Concurrent Sessions**

Steven James Tingus, C.Phil, Director, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), ED

9:15 a.m. – Noon

**Concurrent Policy Development Sessions**

- Session 1: Social Engagement & Productivity
- Session 2: Healthy Long-Term Living
- Session 3: Economic Security: Planning & Choice
- Session 4: Technology, Universal Design & Environments
- Session 5: Positive Messaging

12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

**Working Lunch (provided)**

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

**Closing Session -- Presentation of Recommendations from Concurrent Policy Development Sessions**

- Moderator: Michael Deland, President, National Organization on Disability

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Closing Remarks**

- Dorcas R. Hardy, Chair, Policy Committee, White House Conference on Aging

3:00 p.m.

**Adjourn**

## **Abstracts for Concurrent Policy Development Sessions**

### **Concurrent Session 1: Social Engagement and Productive Aging**

***Aging is not a disease -- Age is not a disability:*** Social engagement and productivity are connected. Social Engagement is being an active part of one's chosen community, interacting independently within the environment. Productivity is having the quality, power and incentive to produce, earn or create, bringing about an impact or change in one's life. Getting older can have impact on both social engagement/independence and productivity for individuals who have had a life long disability, as well as those who become impaired due to residuals of an injury, acute illness or chronic disease. This session will bring together individuals and representatives of groups of business and health leaders who understand that getting older and disability do not have to reduce one's social independence, creative and productive contributions. The mission of this work group will be to: (1) evaluate current/future research and issues in the areas of social engagement, productivity, disability and aging, as well as (2) produce a series of practical legislative and business recommendations that protect the individual's social and work opportunities within a public/private employer and community partnership.

The Healthy Long-term Living working group will describe and identify concrete actions to respond to the health challenges related to aging and disability that arise for persons as they age, and for their families, employers, and communities. The group will define the concept of disability within the context of aging and explore why health and aging are an issue whether one ages with or ages into disability. It will explore creating a culture of health promotion that reduces the risks of disability as we age and reduces the risks of secondary conditions for persons with disabilities as they age. Discussion will explore ways to foster a health care and wellness promotion workforce knowledgeable and able to serve the health needs of persons as they age with or age into disabilities in later life, recognizing them as individuals with a range of health and wellness needs, most unrelated to their disabilities. Finally, it will explore best practices and policies that promote the availability of a full range of all appropriate, accessible, and individualized health care for older adults with disabilities. The result of the work of the Healthy Long-term Living working group will include the development of specific measurable recommendations that can materially reduce the identified health challenges across the domains of research, education/training, wellness promotion, and integrated health care and human services. A second goal of the working group is to identify ways in which health and disability can be included as a theme that runs throughout the White House Conference on Aging.

### **Concurrent Session 2: Healthy Long-term Living -- The Intersecting Challenges of Disability and Aging to Health and Wellness.**

The Healthy Long-term Living working group will describe and identify concrete actions to respond to the health challenges related to aging and disability that arise for persons as they age, and for their families, employers, and communities. The group will define the concept of disability within the context of aging and explore why health and aging are an issue whether one ages with or ages into disability. It will explore creating a culture of health promotion that reduces the risks of disability as we age and reduces the risks of secondary conditions for persons with disabilities as they age. Discussion will explore ways to foster a health care and wellness promotion workforce knowledgeable and able to serve the health needs of persons as they age with

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### **Concurrent Session 3: Economic Security-- Planning and Choice**

Very few people anticipate and prepare for retirement and long term care as they age. People with disabilities are further disadvantaged. Because of means-tested eligibility requirements for many necessary federal assistance programs, people with disabilities are prohibited from building assets and saving money, even for goals such as buying a home or car, purchasing assistive technology, advancing education and training for work. Without such necessary items, many people with disabilities are fated to remain in poverty, becoming increasingly dependent on government assistance. Currently, one in three individuals with disabilities lives at or below the poverty level. Demonstrations that test individual development accounts, self-directed accounts and vouchers used for equity purchases have been successful in helping people break the cycle of poverty to go to work, purchase homes and save for goals. Creative strategies that facilitate savings across the work lifespan are also currently being discussed.

The Economic Security concurrent session participants will put forth a resolution that will lead to improvements in economic security, planning and choice for Americans as they age with a disability. Session participants will discuss and coalesce around a resolution that will outline income support program and policy reform to maximize health, independence, choice, social engagement, long-term employment outcomes, and asset development for people aging with a disability. The group will develop a strategy that will lead to greater savings and planning among all workers, with an emphasis on making it easy for workers to save and plan for disability onset across their working lives. The group will consider and propose meaningful incentives to reward employers for having model disability insurance, pension and/or retiree benefit policies and programs.

### **Concurrent Session 4: Technology, Universal Design and Environments -- Harnessing the Potential of Technology for Healthy and Productive Aging with Disability**

The session envisions a nation in which all technology, products, services, systems and physical environments are accessible to, usable by, and actually used by the growing segment of Americans who are aging with disability. The problem is that this vision contrasts with the current situation that is characterized by significant barriers preventing assistive technologies and accessible environments from being developed, deployed, and used. To address this gap, the session will bring together key stakeholders and subject matter experts from government, academia, advocacy organizations and industry to formulate reasonably ambitious and actionable recommendations that increase access to existing assistive and universally designed technologies and supports and capitalize on promising technological innovations and environmental adaptations to improve health and facilitate social engagement and productivity for individuals aging with disability and for their families, employers, and communities.

**Concurrent Session 5: Positive Messaging – Focus and Goals**

Both "aging" and "disability" carry negative messages damaging to psyches in Western Societies. Unlike our neighbors in Eastern cultures venerating age and wisdom, we ascribe a dual negativity to aging coupled with disability. An unfortunate result is a "giving up" which serves to lessen prematurely the potential for maximum health, productivity, social engagement, and independence. This session will bring together representatives of the disability and aging communities, stakeholder federal agencies, and experts in strategic communications. They will address the negative associations of disability and aging in order to formulate positive recommendations for re-shaping public attitudes.